

THE ACTION of the Botanical Club, of course fully representing the new section G, in reference to the International Botanical Congress in connection with the Columbian Exposition, was thoroughly prudent. By correspondence and by personal investigation it had become sufficiently evident that a very meager representation of European botanists could be expected, and that nothing was to be gained by coöperation with the World's Congress Auxiliary. It seemed somewhat absurd to call a meeting of American botanists an "International Congress." However, the attractions of the year are to be taken advantage of, and foreign botanists urged to attend the meeting of the Botanical Club, which has a committee appointed to do all it can towards making their stay pleasant and profitable.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

The lower cryptogams.¹

Professor Ludwig of Greiz is known as one of the most energetic German students of the mutual relations between plants and animals, and of the fungi, especially those connected with some of the obscure gum diseases of trees. For a series of years he has reviewed mycological literature for Just's Jahresbericht, which has caused him to become quite familiar with the work being done by specialists in that field, so that his text-book is unusually rich in references to recent work. The book is essentially a review of the thallophytes, with especial reference to economic questions, nearly 600 pages being devoted to the fungi, and only about one-tenth as much to the algæ, inclusive of lichens. A full index makes reference to the cryptogams themselves, as well as host plants, etc., quite easy, although the hosts are indexed only under their common names. The book appears to be carefully and well written.—W. T.

Minor notices.

PROFESSOR GREENE'S *Pittonia* (vol. II, pt. 11; May-Aug., 1892) contains a very interesting paper upon Dr. Kuntze and his reviewers, chiefly the latter. The reviewers referred to are Hemsley (*Nature*), Jackson (*Jour. Bot.*), Britton (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club*), and Schumann

¹LUDWIG, FRIEDRICH.—Lehrbuch der niederen Kryptogamen, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung derjenigen Arten, die für den Menschen von Bedeutung sind, oder in Aeushalte der Natur eine hervorragende Rolle spielen.—8vo, pp. xvi+672. Stuttgart, Enke, 1892.

(*Nat. Rund.*). The reviewer of reviews, while acknowledging in a general way that he may have been even more radical than Kuntze, cannot subscribe to all his views, although this probably refers to certain minor points. He points out very clearly that this much criticised author has the merit of consistency in his application of the "Paris Code," a fact which would seem to indicate that the time has come to guard the workings of the code. Professor Greene regards Kuntze's work as the most important contribution to the literature of nomenclature that has ever been made and one for which all botanists should be grateful, an opinion which THE GAZETTE has already expressed.

IN THE SAME publication Bentham's genus *Linanthus* is restored to include some twenty-five species which have been usually placed under *Gilia*. Many new species from the wonderful Pacific coast flora are also described.

PROFESSOR A. C. APGAR is the author of a small book dealing with the trees of the Northern United States². There can be no doubt that the trees are too much neglected by pupils in botany, and that many a person becomes familiar with the herbaceous flora of his neighborhood without being able to recognize the trees. This book is prepared for the easy determination of our trees, cultivated as well as indigenous. As it does not profess to be written for the professional botanist it should be judged merely from its adaptation to its audience. An easy analytical key to genera is provided, and illustrations are plentifully sprinkled through the text. There is no reason why this book should not be very useful in enabling students to become acquainted with trees, a thing much to be desired.

DR. W. J. BEAL AND MR. C. F. WHEELER have published a catalogue of Michigan plants³, which is based upon the Wheeler & Smith catalogue of 1880. The pamphlet contains some 70 pages of valuable prefatory material, discussing from numerous points of view the flora of the state, and including many group lists. The catalogue contains 1746 numbers, including the pteridophytes. The publication is a valuable addition to our increasing list of useful local catalogues.

²APGAR, AUSTIN C.—Trees of the Northern United States, their study, description and determination, for the use of schools and private students. 8vo. pp. 224. American Book Company: New York, Cincinnati, Chicago.

³BEAL, W. J. and WHEELER, C. F.—Michigan Flora. Prepared for the 30th Ann. Rep. of the Sec'y of the State Board of Agric. 8vo. pp. 180. Lansing, 1892.